



**California  
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October 31, 2002

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California Department of Water Resources  
ATTN: SWP Water Delivery Report  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-001

To Whom It May Concern:

The California Building Industry Association (CBIA), representing over 5,000 member companies engaged in residential and commercial development, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft State Water Project (SWP) Water Delivery Reliability Report.

Water supply has always been an important public policy issue, but perhaps never more so than today. With uncertain rainfall each year, a thirsty, burgeoning population and a heightened awareness of environmental needs, California faces a considerable challenge as it decides how best to ensure adequate water supplies today and for future generations. Moreover, state legislation enacted last year (SB 221 – Kuehl and SB 610 - Costa) requires local governments, water agencies and homebuilders to improve water planning by considering all sources of water supply, including groundwater as a way to ensure adequate water supplies are available prior to approving large construction projects.

With respect to the draft SWP Report, CBIA commends the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for conducting a comprehensive overview of a variety of factors that can affect water supply sources, including the timing of use, hydrology, and future weather patterns. By using rainfall records over the last 73 years, the draft SWP includes information contractors can use to document the likely availability of water and reliability of the SWP between 2001 and 2021. It shows what deliveries are likely to be in single dry, multiple dry, normal, single wet and multiple wet years. It acknowledges the possibility of global warming and calls for adjustments in future years if that is the case. Including such scenarios in the analysis should reduce concerns of uncertainty and unreliable water sources as local contractors begin to document water supplies. )

California homebuilders are committed to addressing the challenge of meeting the state's water supply needs and believe that through increased conservation, water storage, and alternative supply strategies California can overcome it – and do so in a way that is environmentally sound. CBIA appreciates the thorough analysis of the draft SWP and looks forward to working with state and local entities, water agencies and the public during the implementation of the new water supply planning laws.

Sincerely,

Brian White  
Legislative Advocate